Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02341 211319Z

45
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-10 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 MC-02

/117 W
---------- 128205
R 211158Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA UNN
AMCONSUL ASMARA UNN
USINT BAGHDAD UNN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2341

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS ET
SUBJECT: ELF ACTIVITY IN LEBANON

1. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (ELF) SYG OTHMAN SALEH SABBEH, DURING FEB 19 PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, WARNED THAT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIAN GOVT WOULD LEAD TO EXPANSION OF PRESENT ERITREAN CONFLICT TO "ALL OF NORTHEAST AFRICA" AND CAUSE HARM TO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING IN RED SEA AND BAB AL-MANDAB STRAITS. SABBEH ALSO REPORTEDLY CLAIMED ELF FORCES ARE "IN EXCELLENT POSITION AND EXPECT TO TAKE ASMARA SOON." HE ADDED ETHIOPIAN ARMY FALTERING BECAUSE OF EXTREMELY EX-TENDED SUPPLY LINES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02341 211319Z

2. INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR, FEB 20, CITING "INFORMED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

SOURCES," SAID BOTH KING FEISAL AND PRES SADAT HAD RAISED ERITREAN QUESTION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS RECENT ME TOUR, EMPHASIZING "IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO WORLD IN GENERAL AND ARAB WORLD IN PARTICULAR." SECRETARY ALLEGEDLY INFORMED THEM US HAS NOT YET TAKEN DECISION ON ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR ARMS AND MUNITIONS.

3. NAHAR ON FEB 21 ALSO REPORTED THAT PLO HAS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS TO SOLICIT SUPPORT AND AID FOR ELF, PARTICULARLY FROM "SOCIALIST STATES" AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHERE PLO HAS OVERSEAS OFFICES. PLO-ELF "UNDERSTANDING" WAS REPORTEDLY AGREED UPON DURING FEB 19 MEETING BETWEEN SABBEH AND PLO POLITICAL DEPT HEAD FAROUQ QADDUMI. SABBEH IS SAID TO HAVE OUTLINED SITUATION IN ERITREA TO PLO AND COMPLAINED THAT SOVIETS AND CHINESE, "HAVING SWALLOWED SOCIALIST RHETORIC OF ETHIOPIAN REGIME,"HAVE NOT SHOWN FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS.
HOUGHTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, LIBERATION FRONTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT02341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0589
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750225/aaaaawap.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELF ACTIVITY IN LEBANON
TAGS: PINS, ET, LE, US, ELF, PLO, (SABBEH, OTHMAN SALEH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006